

Message Text

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21
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2120
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6239

MANILA PLEASE PASS DEA/RD PICINI

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS/CONGRESSIONAL

REF: A. STATE 1215 B. STATE 183728

1. REF A IS ANSWERED IN THE SAME CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER AS
CONTAINED THEREIN:

2. SECTION A.

(A) NONE
(B) NONE
(C) NONE
(D) NONE
(E) NONE. 482 FUNDS - CENTRALLY FUNDED. U.S. CUSTOMS CONDUCTED
TWO-WEEK IN-COUNTRY TRAINING SCHOOL (40 ROK CUSTOMS AGENTS TRAINED):
DEA CONDUCTED A TWO-WEEK IN-COUNTRY TRAINING SCHOOL (70 ROK
NARCOTIC AGENTS AND ROK POLICE TRAINED). COST FOR BOTH SCHOOLS
UNAVAILABLE AT THIS POST.

2. SECTION B.

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(A) NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

(B) THERE IS LITTLE ABUSE OF DRUGS BY THE LOCAL POPULACE. ROK
AUTHORITIES HAVE NOTED SOME EXPERIMENTATION WITH MARIHUANA AND

BARBITURATES BY SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS, MUSICIANS, AND ENTERTAINERS. AT THIS TIME, THIS IS VERY LIMITED. THERE IS ALSO SOME ABUSE OF THESE DRUGS BY U.S. MILITARY BUT NOT ON THE SCALE OF OTHER AREAS IN WHICH THE U.S. HAS LARGE CONCENTRATIONS OF TROOPS. THE ROK IS CONSCIOUS OF THE PROBLEMS OF DRUG ABUSE, AS IT HAS EXPERIENCED THIS PROBLEM IN THE PAST; AND, THEREFORE, MAINTAINS STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF ITS DRUG LAWS. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT CONTINUALLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR MORE DRUG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND IS NOW TAKING AN INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

(C) (1) THE OPIUM POPPY IS GROWN IN THE ROK, BUT, AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE IS NO HEROIN PRODUCTION. THE OPIUM YIELD IS FOR LOCAL MEDICINAL USE BY FARMERS IN REMOTE AREAS. ROK AUTHORITIES EACH YEAR DESTROY CLANDESTINE OPIUM FIELDS, NONE OF WHICH ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO YIELD SUFFICIENT OPIUM FOR ANY LARGE CONVERSION TO HEROIN.

(2) CANNABIS IS GROWN LEGALLY IN THE ROK FOR HEMP AND TEXTILES BUT THIS PRODUCTION DIMINISHES EACH YEAR AS THE NEED FOR THESE PRODUCTS DIMINISHES; THE KOREAN PEOPLE ARE SUBSTITUTING SUCH SYNTHETICS AS NYLON FOR HEMP TO MAKE ROPES AND THE YOUNGER KOREANS NO LONGER DESIRE THE TRADITIONAL HEMP CLOTH.

(3) THERE IS METHAMPHETAMINE MANUFACTURED IN HE ROK BY CLANDESTINE LABORATORIES. ALTHOUGH NOT CENTERED IN PUSAN, THIS CITY IS THE AREA IN WHICH MOST OF THE LABORATORIES ARE LOCATED.

(D) IT CAN BE SAID THAT ALL OF THE METHAMPHETAMINE ILLICITLY PRODUCED IN THE ROK IS SMUGGLED TO JAPAN (USUALLY BY SEAMEN COURIERS). THIS ILLICIT SMUGGLING, FOR THE MOST PART, IS UNDER THE CONTROL OF ORGANIZED CRIMINAL GANGS FROM OSAKA, JAPAN.

(E) THE ROK FROM ALL APPEARANCES DESIRES TO COOPERATE IN INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES.

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(F) (1) THE U.S. MISSION IN KOREA, THROUGH THE NCAP REPORT TO CCINC FOR FY 77, IS REQUESTING FUNDS FOR UPGRADING THE ROK ENFORCEMENT DIVISION WITH CERTAIN COMMODITIES, E.G., VEHICLES AND RADIOS, AS WELL AS U.S. TRAINING OF POLICE INSTRUCTORS FROM THE ROK NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY.

(2) THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE POLITICAL CLIMATE. THE ROK DESIRES FULL COOPERATION WITH THE U.S.

(G) (1) THERE ARE NO REALLY IMPORTANT NARCOTIC OPERATIONS AT PRESENT. THE ROK IS BEING URGED TO EXERCISE MORE CONTROLS ON EPHEDRINE, THE RAW MATERIAL FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF METHAMPHETAMINE. THIS SUBJECT IS UNDER STUDY AND NEW CONTROLS SHOULD BE

FORTHCOMING.

(2) HARD FIGURES ON SEIZURES ARE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN. WHAT CAN BE STATED IS THAT ROK AUTHORITIES, EACH MONTH, MAKE SEVERAL ARRESTS INVOLVING METHAMPHETAMINE AND CONTINUALLY SEIZE METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES. IT IS ALSO WORKING CONTINUOUSLY WITH U.S. ARMY CID PERSONNEL ON INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY AND KOREAN CITIZENS.

(3) THERE ARE NO U.S.-FINANCED NARCOTICS PROJECTS IN KOREA AT THE PRESENT TIME.

(H) NONE.

(8) NO CHANGE.
ERICSON

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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